

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INT-05 ERDA-07 COME-00 /033 W

-----007995 070113Z /66

R 060950Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 700

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 11376

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ELTN, ENRG UR US TGN

SUBJECT: PERMAFROST PIPELINE INFORMATION FOR INTERSTATE COMMERCE  
COMMISSION

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED REQUEST FROM INTERSTATE COMMERCE  
COMMISSION FOR INFORMATION ON SOVIET CONSTRUCTION OF  
PIPELINES IN PERMAFROST. INFORMATION WOULD BE USED IN  
ICC STUDY DETERMINING LAWFULNESS OF TRANSPORTATION RATES  
PROPOSED FOR TRANS ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM. EMBASSY AND  
CONGEN EFFORTS HAVE PRODUCED NO RESULTS TO DATE. EMBASSY  
REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT SO INFORM ICC AND POSSIBLY REFER  
ICC TO RELEVANT WASHINGTON AGENCIES, E.G., U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
(OSCAR FERRIANS OF MENLO PARK, CA) AND ERDA (NIEL DUNNING).

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JULY 7 LETTER TO E/C COUNSELOR  
FROM EDWARD D. GREENBERG, SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR PIPELINES,  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT, ICC.

3. BEGIN TEXT: THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION PRESENTLY  
HAS AN INVESTIGATION OF THE TRANS ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM  
(TAPS) TO DETERMINE THE LAWFULNESS OF TRANSPORTATION RATES  
PROPOSED BY EACH OF THE EIGHT OWNING COMPANIES. AS  
SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR PIPELINES, I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO LEAD THE  
COMMISSION'S STAFF IN THIS INQUIRY.

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4. IN ORDER TO PLACE TAPS IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE, SOME  
REASONED COMPARISON WITH SIMILAR PROJECTS MUST BE ATTEMPTED.  
FOR THIS REASON ANY ASSISTANCE YOU COULD GIVE US IN OBTAINING  
THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW WOULD BE AN INVALUABLE AID IN  
PERMITTING US TO REACH THE NECESSARY CONCLUSIONS IN OUR  
PROCEEDING.

5. SPECIFICALLY, WE WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN RECEIVING ANY STUDIES WHICH COULD BE OBTAINED FROM THE SOVIET UNION CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION IN PERMAFROST CONDITIONS. THIS DATA HAS PROBABLY BEEN ASSEMBLED IN VIEW OF THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE OF BUILDING A PETROLEUM PIPELINE IN ARCTIC REGIONS.

6. IF I CAN PROVIDE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME. IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMISSION'S INQUIRIES AND THE FACT THAT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE IN REACHING SOME RESOLUTION OF THESE ISSUES, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS INFORMATION BE OBTAINED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

7. THANK YOUR FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER. END TEXT.  
TOON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, CUSTOMS DUTIES, FREIGHT RATES, ALASKA PIPELINE, STUDIES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Subject:** PERMAFROST PIPELINE INFORMATION FOR INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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